

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1255 AND H.R. 1214

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor of H.R. 1255 and H.R. 1214.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

SAN JACINTO DAY

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history, frankly, the history of the United States, San Jacinto Day.

Today, in 1836, roughly 900 Texan and Tejanos volunteers overpowered a larger, professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers after defeats at Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting against tyranny and they were fighting for their families.

In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic composed of sovereign states to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the Battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics; it was a struggle between all Texans and military dictatorship in Mexico City.

Texans and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice. And our young men and women going to or coming back from fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq are very aware of this.

Texans are renowned around the world for responding to the call of duty. We hold our heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for the betterment of their fellow man in the highest regard. I am proud to represent the site of the Battle of San Jacinto commemorated by the San Jacinto Monument.

Thanks to the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Their hard work allowed for the preservation of the San Jacinto Battleground by petitioning the Texas Legislature to purchase the acreage and by donating their treasury to complete the sale in 1900. This San Jacinto Chapter of Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Texas Veterans Association did tremendous work to ensure that the legacy lives on, and the importance of the park has only expanded since then. The park not only has the San Jacinto Monument to recognize the brave men and women, but it also

includes the Battleship Texas, which is a symbol of sacrifices in World War I and World War II.

With the understanding of where they came from, Texans and Americans will continue to respond to the calls of service, thereby continuing their legacy of respect and admiration throughout the world.

God bless Texas and the United States.

THANK YOU TROOPS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. During the recess, I was grateful to visit for the 10th time with troops in Iraq, and my eighth visit with troops in Afghanistan. As our delegation met with servicemembers of our home States, it is inspiring to see the commitment to protecting American families at home by defeating terrorists overseas.

We learned in Baghdad that terrorist attacks have been reduced by over 90 percent from 2007 due to the success of the surge. The next day, when President Obama spoke, he stated, "You have given Iraq the opportunity to stand on its own as a democratic country. That is an extraordinary achievement."

As the father of two sons who have served in Iraq, I am especially appreciative of military families. In Afghanistan, it was explained that extensive plans are underway to expand the Afghan National Army, the Afghan police, and the Afghan border police. I know firsthand of the success of local forces as my former National Guard unit, the 218th Brigade, completed a year of service at Camp Phoenix last year promoting a civil society.

In conclusion, God bless our troops—and we will never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS BILL ORTON

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, today we come to the House floor in memory of a fine Member of this body who distinguished himself here, in my opinion, and left a lasting legacy.

Bill Orton, who our colleague, JIM MATHESON, informed us passed away in an accident in Utah, who represented the people of Utah's Sixth District from 1991 to 1997, died last weekend at the age of 60.

Bill always was an independent thinker and serious-minded public servant. He was elected three times as a Democrat in one of America's most conservative districts, as our friend JIM MATHESON has done, a fact that testifies both to his persuasive skills

and the deep respect he earned even from those he didn't persuade.

As a local paper wrote, "Utahans couldn't have done much better than electing Bill Orton." I agree with that sentiment, Mr. Speaker. In just three terms here, Bill left a permanent mark. He was a founder of the Blue Dog Coalition, which has stood up for fiscal discipline ever since and is well represented here tonight.

Bill was instrumental in creating the Democratic ideal of fiscal responsibility. And ever since, when Democrats have come to this floor to defend the government's essential programs while advocating for a balanced budget, they have been following in Bill's footsteps. Now, every time we speak out for a government that pays for what it buys, we have an opportunity to carry on Bill's work.

But as much as we will miss him, I know that his community and his family will miss him incomparably more. Bill became a father late in life, but his boys, Will and Wes, filled what turned out to be the last years of his life with so much joy. Those who know Bill remember, I'm sure, how he turned half of his congressional office into a nursery, or how he proudly brought baby Will to sit with him at hearings.

I know that nothing can make up for the loss of a father, particularly a father of young children. For Jacquelyn Orton, I know that nothing can make up for the loss of her husband. But I hope it will be some consolation—small, but some—to know that Bill was important to the life of his State and of his Nation, and that he shaped them for the better; that even though he had more to give, he gave much more than most ever do.

To his family, we extend great sympathy. From his country, to Bill Orton, we say thank you; thank you for serving so well the people of Utah and the people of the United States of America. God bless his family.

ON THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN BILL ORTON

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Third Congressional District Representative Bill Orton. Representative Orton passed away in a tragic accident this past weekend. He served with honor for three terms as a Member of this body. He was described as something of a political maverick and an independent voice for Utah, bucking both parties at times.

It is during times such as these that we set aside our partisan differences and join together in mourning the passing of a great American and a great public servant. Representative Orton cast a long shadow over the State of Utah and the Third Congressional District. It is an honor for me to